

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 130456

R 031210Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2594

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS UNITE

1. SUMMARY: MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS, UNITING OLD EUROPEAN LIBERAL OPPOSITION FORCES THROUGHOUT TERRITORY, IS EMERGING AS VOLUBLE AND POTENTIALLY POWERFUL FORCE IN POST-REVOLUTIONARY MOZAMBIQUE, AND FOR BETTER OR WORSE HAS CHOSEN ROLE OF SPONSORING AND HASTENING FRELIMO ASSUMPTION OF POWER. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST VOCAL OF POLITICAL GROUPS TO EMERGE SINCE APRIL 25 REVOLUTION HERE HAVE BEEN LOCAL GROUPS CALLING THEMSELVES MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS, WHICH APPEAR TO BE DOMINATED BY THE WHITE, LIBERAL PROFESSIONALS (INCLUDING MANY LAWYERS) WHO HAD LED LONG-STANDING BUT HALTING OPPOSITION TO SALAZAR/CAETANO REGIMES BEFORE REVOLUTION, POSSIBLY JOINED BY SOME

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OF THE TINY HANDFUL OF BLACK PROFESSIONALS AND HIGHER

BUREAUCRATS. NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN BOMBARDED BY MANIFESTOS AND INFORMATION NOTICES ("FOLHAS INFORMATIVOS") EMANATING FROM THESE GROUPS, THE LATTER CONCENTRATING ON TIDBITS OF FOREIGN NEWS (OFTEN FROM FRELIMO SOURCES), EXPOSES OF SUPPOSED SOCIO/ECONOMIC INJUSTICES, AND DENUNCIATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS OR INSTITUTIONS BELIEVED TAINTED BY THE "FASCISM" OF FORMER REGIME. (IN PARTICULAR, THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO TRACK DOWN AND EXPOSE, WITHOUT ANY NOTICEABLE CONCERN WITH CIVIL RIGHTS, PERSONS ALLEGEDLY LINKED WITH FORMER DGS/PIDE.) ON MAY 27, GROUPS FROM LOURENCO MARQUES, JOAO BELO, VILA PEREIRA, QUELIMANE, NAMPULA AND BEIRA MET IN LATTER CITY TO FORM A SINGLE "DEMOCRATS OF MOZAMBIQUE" ORGANIZATION.

3. NEW GROUP (ECHOING PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF CONSTITUENT MEMBERS) DENIES BEING POLITICAL PARTY, ENDORSES ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, ADVOCATES IMMEDIATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN GOP AND FRELIMO LEADING TO PEACE AND RECOGNITION OF RIGHT OF MOZAMBIKAN PEOPLE TO INDEPENDENCE, AND DENOUNCES ATTEMPTS AT CREATION OF POLITICAL "THIRD FORCES" AS ONLY TENDING TO PROLONG WAR. ITS FOUNDING MANIFESTO LISTS FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES: (A) DISMANTLING OF "FASCIST COLONIALIST" SYSTEM IMPLANTED IN MOZAMBIQUE; (B) ENLIGHTENING PEOPLE AGAINST ALARMIST ACTIONS BY "REACTIONARIES" AND "MINORITY RACIST GROUPS" SEEKING BY PROVOCATIONS TO COMPROMISE NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO MOZAMBIQUE PROBLEMS; (C) DENOUNCING "FASCIST MYTHS" WHICH SEEK TO DISTORT THE PROGRAMS AND OBJECTIVES OF FRELIMO, AND ENLIGHTENING PUBLIC ON REAL PRINCIPLES OF FRELIMO WHICH HAS ALWAYS CALLED FOR TRULY FREE MOZAMBIQUE AND A MULTIRACIAL, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY WITH NO ROOM FOR EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN; (D) SHOWING PEOPLE THAT APRIL 25 MOVEMENT HAS OPENED PROSPECTS OF PEACE, AND DENOUNCING ALL OPPORTUNISTS WHO SEEK TO BREAK UNITY OF MOZAMBIQUE PEOPLE.

4. DOCTRINE SUMMED UP WELL BY LAWYER ADRIAO RODRIGUES IN RECENT INTERVIEW WITH LISBON EXPRESSO, SAYING THAT FRELIMO'S POLITICAL PROGRAM WAS ONLY VIABLE FORMULA AND THAT DEMOCRATS OF MOZAMBIQUE SUBSCRIBED TO IT ENTIRELY. HE DESCRIBED ORGANIZATION AS "PRESSURE GROUP WHICH INTENDS TO AWAKEN MOZAMBIQUE WHITES TO FACT THAT THEIR INTEREST IS TO COLLABORATE IN THE NEW SOCIETY, OBTAIN A RAPID END OF THE WAR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND AVOID ADVENTURES WITH UNFORSEEABLE CONSEQUENCES". GUMO, HE SAID, WAS COMPROMISED WITH OLD REGIME, HAD FAILED MISERABLY BEFORE PUBLIC, WAS BECOMING RACIST AND, LIKE ALL OTHER PARTIES SHOULD MEET "A NATURAL DEATH FOR THE GOOD OF MOZAMBIQUE UNITY".

5. INTERTERRITORIAL MINISTER DE ALMEIDA SANTOS HAS EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF GROUP (AND INDEED IS ONE OF LOURENCO

MARQUES ATTORNEYS WHO AT ONE TIME FORMED ITS NUCLEUS), AND HIS LAW PARTNER, DR. SOARES DE MELO, EXPECTED TO BECOME NEXT GOVERNOR GENERAL, SEEMS ALSO CLOSE TO IT, THOUGH MOVEMENT HAS EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT DE ALMEIDA SANTOS' CONSERVATISM AND BUSINESS CONNECTIONS. THE PRESS (REF A) SEEMS TO BE FALLING INCREASINGLY INTO LINE. WITH MONEY, EXPERTISE (SUCH AS THERE IS HERE) IN ORGANIZATION, INFLUENCE AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC, MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS HOLD A POWERFUL POSITION IN CURRENT POLITICAL JUNCTURE.

6. COMMENT: BASIC STRATEGY OF MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS SEEMS CLEAR: TO JUMP FIRMLY ON FRELIMO BANDWAGON AND CLEAR ITS WAY TO POWER IN AN INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE, IN HOPES THAT THIS WILL PERMIT A CONTINUED ROLE FOR THEMSELVES IN THE REGIME AND SOCIETY TO COME. THEIR MOTIVES ARE NOT, HOWEVER, ENTIRELY SELFISH; MANY OLD OPPOSITIONISTS NOW LEADING MOVEMENT ARE SINCERE BELIEVERS IN AFRICAN RIGHTS, THOUGH THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE AFRICAN MILIEU ARE LIMITED, AND THEY ARE POORLY INFORMED ON CONDITIONS OUTSIDE THE CITIES, OR ON TRIBAL MATTERS. THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO ATONE FOR WHITE PORTUGUESE MISTREATMENT OF AFRICANS DURING COLONIAL PERIOD.

(LOURENCO MARQUES DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY ACTIVE IN SEEKING TO AID AND REHABILITATE RELEASED AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.) THEIR STRATEGY, HOWEVER, SEEMS BASED ON ASSUMPTIONS, ESPECIALLY ABOUT FRELIMO, WHICH ARE FAR FROM PROVEN, AND A PERHAPS NAIVE ACCEPTANCE OF FRELIMO ASSERTIONS OF FACE VALUE. THEIR TACTICS DISPLAY AN INTOLERANCE OF OPPOSING VIEWS AND GROUPS NOT WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH THEIR PROCLAIMED ALLEGIANCE TO DEMOCRACY.
REED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, INDEPENDENCE, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740140-0700
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740680/aaaacrmf.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBIQUE DEMOCRATS UNITE
TAGS: PINT, MZ, FRELIMO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005